THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

ONGC's Agreement with Non-Public Financial Institutions

746. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM
AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC is planning to rope in non-public sector financial institutions for hiring people at market related pay packages; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard including the stake to be held by the corporation in the joint venture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) In view of recent policy changes in the Hydrocarbon sector, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), a Navratna Public Sector Undertaking in the upstream Hydrocarbon sector, intends to expand its business through value chain integration encompassing refining and marketing sectors also, so that it can effectively face market competition. In this scenario, examination of various options, including formation of Joint ventures, by the management of ONGC, for efficient structure and to seize emerging business opportunities, has been a continuous process. ONGC has informed that their Board of Directors has not taken any decision on formation of the said Non-Government Joint Venture, as of now.

Petrol pump in Alaknanda of South Delhi

747. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no petrol/CNG pump in the vicinity of Alaknanda and Greater Kailash-II area of South Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that customers have to drive down 2/4 kms. for filling up petrol;

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to set up petrol pump in that area on a priority basis; and

(d) by when this project will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) There is no retail outlet (petrol pump)/CNG pump very close to Alaknanda and Greater Kailash-II areas of South Delhi. The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) earmarks sites for development of retail outlets in Delhi and the same are allotted to oil companies as per their terms and conditions. Further, these being residential areas, no suitable private land is available and, thus, the setting up of new retail outlet here depends upon the allotment of site by the DDA.

Sale of equity in IOC, ONGC and GAIL

748. SHRI DINANATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are seriously considering off-loading its equity in IOC/ONGC/GAIL through public offering;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount likely to be collected through this route and its application/appropriation in Government scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Disinvestment is a continuous process and Government keeps considering proposals for disinvestment of PSUs through inter-ministerial consultations, and takes a final decision after considering all relevant factors. Currently, there is no decision to off-load stakes in IOC, GAIL and ONGC.

(b) and (c) In view of the reply to (a) above, do not arise.

Sale of Ethanol Mixed Petrol

†749. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering selling of ethanol mixed petrol in some States;

(b) if so, the names of the such States; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.